Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03871 302202Z

62
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
---------- 117082
Z 302119Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 9838

S E C R E T BEIRUT 3871

NODIS

FOR DAY AND AMBASSADOR BROWN: PASS SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS - THINKING OF SPEAKER KAMAL ASSAD

REF: (A) BEIRUT 38YY

1. A PARLIAMENTARY DEPUTY CLOSE TO SPEAKER KAMAL ASSAD INFORMS ME THAT ASSAD IS SEEKING MEANS TO POSTPONE MAY 1 SESSION UNTIL NEXT WEEK.

IN ORDER TO COVER HIMSELF, ASSAD REQUESTED GROUP OF 32 "INDEPENDENT" DEPUTIES TO PETITION HIM IN WRITING TO DELAY MEETING. THIS WAS REFUSED

BUT IT WAS AGREED BY ALL 32 TO REQUEST DELAY OF HIM ORALLY. ASSAD PLANS TO KEEP THIS INFO CONFIDENTIAL BUT TO ACT ON IT AFTER TAKING A FEW MORE SOUNDINGS. SECOND MEETING OF GROUP OF 32 SCHEDULED FOR 10 O'CLOCK THIS EVENING. GENERAL BELIEF IS THAT ASSAD WILL RECOMMEND DELAY.

2. MEANWHILE I HAVE RECEIVED REPORT FROM RELIABLE SOURCE THAT THE CITY IS TENSE AND THAT BARRACADES ARE GOING UP IN THE MOSLEM QUARHERS OF THE CITY. (ALREADY THIS MORNING THERE WERE REPORTS THAT CHAMOUN'S FORCES WERE MAKING IT DIFFICULT FOR PEOPLE IN THE EASTERN PART OF THE CITY TO COME TO THE WESTERN PART.)

3. AS PREVIOUSLY NOTED, BRIEF DELAY IN ELECTIONS COULD GIVE SARKIS TIME TO PURSUADE SYRIANS TO APPEASE JUMBLATT OR THE PARLIAMENT TIME
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 03871 302202Z

TO SELECT THE THIRD MAN. I REALIZE THAT WE ARE HARDLY IN TOO GOOD A

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

POSITION TO INTERVENE OURSELVES VIS-A-VIS THE SYRIANS BUT PERHAPS OUR VIEWS WOULD NOT BE REJECTED OUT OF HAND IF IT DECAME CLEAR THAT THEY WERE CONSONANT WITH SYRIAN OBJECTIVES CONCERNING THE CHOICE OF AN APPROPRIATE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE.

4. HAVING MADE ONE (WITHAL LOW KEY) APPROACH TO JUMBLATT'S REPRESENTATIVES IN FAVOR OF A PARLIAMENTARY MEETING TOMORROW, I HAVE LET THE MATTER GO OUT THAT AND HAVE NOT PURSUED IT ANY FURTHER. ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, IT IS BY NOW APPRENT THAT A DELAY WOULD BETTER SERVE OUR INTERESTS THAN A SITUATION IN WHICH A MEETING FIXED FOR THE MORNING WOULD PROBABLY BE SUCCESSFULLY CHALLENGED BY THE STREET.
WARING

SECRET

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROGRESS REPORTS, POLITICAL SITUATION, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, MEETINGS, PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, ELECTION CANCELLATION, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BEIRUT03871
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P850108-2377
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976045/aaaaaeaf.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 76 BEIRUT 38, 76 BEIRUT 3866
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <18 OCT 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENTIALELECTIONS - THINKING OF SPEAKER KAMAL ASSAD
TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE, (ASSAD, KAMAL)
To: STATE SS SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006